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Established in 1998, Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Nations (Honoring Nations) identifies, celebrates, and shares outstanding tribal government programs and practices in Native nation building. The program is administered by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (Harvard Project) at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

By shining a bright light on successes in tribal governance, Honoring Nations is contributing to the expanding professionalism of Native nation builders, allowing Native leaders and decision makers to learn from their peers. High public visibility and news coverage of Honoring Nations also permit non-Native policymakers, the media, and the general public to see what Native nations are actually doing in the drive for self-determination. Honorees demonstrate a commitment to fortifying sovereignty, cultural identity, and good governance. They also serve as models of inspiration, innovation, and practicality, eliminating the need to “re-invent the wheel” for many other growing communities. The best practices and innovations of honorees form the raw material from which the Harvard Project fashions usable tools for nation building.

Honoring Nations provides a critical value to today’s Native nations. Decades of federal policies—including overt attempts at assimilation and termination—left American Indian communities the poorest in the United States. In the mid-1970’s, Native individuals and nations successfully pressed the federal government to acknowledge the rights of federally-recognized tribes to substantially govern themselves. Today, the expansion of Native nations’ opportunities for local self-rule is paying off as more American Indian nations assert greater control over their own futures with ever improving effectiveness. Through incredible dedication and effort, these nations are reaping the rewards of self-determination and self-governance—achieving remarkable progress in the political, social, economic, and cultural arenas.

Honoring Nations brings these stories of successful self-government to light, drawing out their lessons for decision makers across Indian Country and beyond. The program is guided by a prestigious Board of Governors—comprised of respected Indigenous leaders, prominent scholars, experts from the public and private sectors, and grassroots mobilizers with extensive experience in Indian Country. To date, Honoring Nations has honored and documented the accomplishments and strategies of 124 exemplary tribal government programs, covering everything from education and healthcare to economic development and infrastructure expansion.
Board of Governors

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Chairman, (emeritus) Honoring Nations Board of Governors
Chief, Faithkeeper, Onondaga Indian Nation

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Chairman, Honoring Nations Board of Governors
Chief of Staff, Majority Floor Leader, Director of Legislative Affairs
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Alfreda Mitre
Tribal Program Director, US EPA Region 8

Wilson Pipestem
Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Ieton Consulting
The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development

Founded by Professors Stephen Cornell and Joseph P. Kalt at Harvard University in 1987, the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (Harvard Project) is housed within the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Through applied research and service, the Harvard Project aims to understand and foster the conditions under which sustained, self-determined social and economic development is achieved among American Indian nations. The Harvard Project’s core activities include research, advisory services, executive education, and the administration of a tribal governance awards program. In all of its activities, the Harvard Project collaborates with the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy at the University of Arizona. The Harvard Project is also formally affiliated with the Harvard University Native American Program, an interfaculty initiative at Harvard University.

At the heart of the Harvard Project is the systematic, comparative study of social and economic development on American Indian reservations. What works, where, and why? Among the key research findings:

**Sovereignty Matters.** When Native nations make their own decisions about what development approaches to take, they consistently out-perform external decision makers—on matters as diverse as governmental form, natural resource management, economic development, health care, and social service provision.

**Institutions Matter.** For development to take hold, assertions of sovereignty must be backed by capable institutions of governance. Nations do this as they adopt stable decision rules, establish fair and independent mechanisms for dispute resolution, and separate politics from day-to-day business and program management.

**Culture Matters.** Successful economies stand on the shoulders of legitimate, culturally grounded institutions of self-government. Indigenous societies are diverse; each nation must equip itself with a governing structure, economic system, policies, and procedures that fit its own contemporary culture.

**Leadership Matters.** Nation building requires leaders who introduce new knowledge and experiences, challenge assumptions, and propose change. Such leaders, whether elected, community, or spiritual, convince people that things can be different and inspire them to take action.
The work of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development is made possible through the generous support and partnership of the:

Arrow Mountain Ranch Family Foundation
The Bus Foundation
Chickasaw Nation
Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation
Nathan Cummings Foundation
Rio Tinto
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Academic Readiness Effort, 2015
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Academic Readiness Effort supports community members from birth through adulthood by investing in kindergarten readiness, educational attainment, and supporting career transitions. The effort has drastically improved educational outcomes within the tribe, ultimately supporting a stronger nation through education.

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Air Quality Program, 2010
Gila River Indian Community

As the city of Phoenix expands toward the northern border of the Gila River Indian Community’s 374,000-acre reservation, the tribe’s economy is becoming increasingly threatened by the city’s consumption of air resources. Beginning in 1997, the Gila River Department of Environmental Quality began to create air quality standards and a monitoring and enforcement regime that ultimately won the Community exclusion from Maricopa County’s ozone non-attainment area. The Community is the first tribe in the country to have a Tribal Air Quality Management Plan approved for federal enforcement and treatment-as-a-state status from the EPA under the Clean Air Act.

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www.gilariver.com

Akwesasne Freedom School, 2005
Akwesasne Mohawk Nation

In 1979, the Akwesasne Freedom School took form out of the Mohawk struggle for self-determination and self-government. It is characterized by a deep commitment to the maintenance of Mohawk identity. Students in this pre-kindergarten through 8th grade language immersion school begin and end each school day reciting the Ohenon Kariwahktkenen or Thanksgiving Address. The teachings embedded in these words express the Mohawk worldview and form the basis of the school’s curriculum. Founded by parents and supported by the Nation’s traditional and elected governments, the School offers a unique cultural and experiential education for young Mohawk citizens. It also creates new generations of Mohawks who know and live in two societies and can bridge the gap between them.
AlterNative Sentencing Program, 2006
Tulalip Tribal Court, the Tulalip Tribes

Born out of a need to create a judicial system that Tulalip citizens can trust and that also helps offenders to recover rather than just “throwing them away,” the Tulalip Tribal Court AlterNative Sentencing Program supports efforts to establish a crime free community. Focusing on the mental, physical, and spiritual health of offenders, while incorporating cultural values, the program melds indigenous and therapeutic jurisprudence, going beyond placing offenders in jail. Tulalip citizens now better reflect the sentiments of a traditional saying, “To pull that canoe, you have to pull together.”

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Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Facility and Tohono O’odham Hospice, 2008
Tohono O’odham Nursing Care Authority, Tohono O’odham Nation

For decades Tohono O’odham elders in need of skilled nursing had to move far away from family and friends to receive care, or stay home and forgo long-term care services. However, with the opening of the Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Facility, O’odham elders can now remain in the community. Combining today’s latest technologies and world-class clinical care with traditional values, the nursing home has become one of the finest elder care facilities anywhere in the United States.

Contact:
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www.toltc.org

Assuring Self-Determination through an Effective Law Enforcement Program, 2003
Gila River Police Department, Gila River Indian Community

Serving a population of 17,000, the 92-employee Gila River Police Department operates a multifaceted law enforcement program that includes community-based policing, neighborhood block watch programs, a citizen’s police academy, and bike patrols. Since assuming control over law enforcement in 1998, the Department has improved police response times significantly and seen a reduction in criminal activity on the reservation, which borders the cities of Phoenix, Chandler, and Tempe.
Bad River Recycling/Solid Waste Department, 2006
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Band of Chippewa

The Bad River Recycling/Solid Waste Department created environmentally sound practices of managing and disposing of waste generated on the reservation, ending cycles of harm to tribal citizens, lands, and water. Historically, waste was not only hazardous, but noticeable and abundant on reservation lands despite cultural creation and migration stories stressing environmental stewardship. Now, through education, incentives, and new waste management systems, the Bad River Band citizens boast a clean, safe, and green environment.

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Bringing Financial and Business Expertise to Tribes, 2002
Borrego Springs Bank, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

The first American Indian-owned bank in California, the Borrego Springs Bank (BSB) offers a full range of services to tribal governments and Native-owned businesses in order to facilitate the entrepreneurial growth of American Indian tribes. With more than $74 million in assets and two full service branches, BSB’s services include credit counseling, funds management assistance, Indian gaming services, and business loans. The bank also works with other financial and governmental entities to improve Indians’ access to financial services.

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www.borrregospringsbank.com

California Fee-to-Trust Consortium, 2010
Elk Valley Rancheria

In 1958 the California Rancheria Act terminated many California tribes and substantially diminished tribally held trust lands. Re-recognition processes in the 1980s restored many tribes’ political status but little of their land: 8.5 million acres of former Indian land remain alienated. California-based tribes decided to launch a proactive effort to overcome a 20-year fee-to-trust deadlock, and the California Fee-to-Trust Consortium was born. Since its inception, the Consortium has helped to move 15,274 acres into trust status. The average processing time has decreased from ten years to one. The return of lands has brought families back together; provided a foundation upon which to build the structures of governance, commerce, and cultural importance; and given citizens a place to put down roots and grow.
The Cherokee Language Revitalization Project, 2005
Cherokee Nation Language Department, Cherokee Nation

In 2002, the Cherokee Nation carried out a survey of its population and found no fluent Cherokee speakers under the age of 40. The Cherokee Principal Chief declared a “state of emergency,” and the Nation acted accordingly. With great focus and determination, it launched a multi-faceted initiative designed to revitalize the Cherokee language. Using state-of-the-art knowledge and language acquisition techniques, the Project includes a language immersion program for pre-school children, a university partnership degree program to certify Cherokee language teachers, and community language activities. The project preserves not just a language but a people—who see in their language the foundation of their own survival.

Cherokee Nation History Course, 2002
Human Resources Department, Cherokee Nation

Launched in 2000, the Cherokee Nation History Course is a free, 40-hour, college-level study offered to 1,800 tribal employees and members of Cherokee communities. Through lectures, discussions, case exercises, and role-playing, the course teaches Cherokee history, culture, and government to both Indians and non-Indians. Designed to build social and professional cohesion and to share knowledge through Cherokee perspectives, the course is deepening understanding about Cherokee sovereignty while producing a stronger sense of nationality, patriotism, and pride.

Cherokee National Youth Choir, 2003
Cherokee Nation

The Youth Choir presents an innovative approach to promoting and encouraging the use of the endangered Cherokee language among its youth while also instilling Cherokee cultural pride. The award-winning choir – comprised of 40 young Cherokee ambassadors – has performed in venues across the US, including the Native American Music Awards, Ground Zero, and the Smithsonian Institution.
Cherokee Tribal Sanitation Program, 1999
Tribal Utilities, Eastern Band of Cherokee

Working with its neighboring counties, the Band developed a waste management system that includes a tribally owned transfer station, waste collection and recycling, bio-solids and food composting, and an education component. This revenue-generating system has enabled the Band to shut down open dumps, reduce levels of illegal dumping, and avoid the need for a tribal landfill. In addition to revenue from sales of recycling and compost materials, the station also services two neighboring counties lacking federally certified landfills. Environmentally, the waste management program has been extremely effective in cleaning up the reservation. Finally, the Tribe is helping to ensure the program’s future success by educating its youth about the need for recycling.

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Fax: 828-497-1830
www.cherokee-nc.com

The Chickasaw Press, Chickasaw Nation, 2008
Division of History, Research, and Scholarship

Books about Native nations and their people are usually written by outsiders. By contrast, the Chickasaw Nation created the Chickasaw Press to spread home-grown knowledge about their Nation’s history and culture. The Press publishes books written by Chickasaw citizens, using the highest standards of professional editing and production. In doing so, it gives new life to an ancient storytelling tradition.

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520 E. Arlington
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Fax: 580-436-7227

Choctaw Community Injury Prevention Program, 2003
Choctaw Health Center, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Responding to alarming rates of preventable accidents on its reservation, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw created a comprehensive community injury prevention program in 2001. Through seat belt and child safety seat campaigns, strict enforcement of motor vehicle laws, and community-wide education initiatives, the program is successfully changing behaviors, saving lives, reducing injuries and disabilities, and lowering health care costs.

Contact:
210 Hospital Circle
**Choctaw Health Center, 1999**  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

After transferring all health care decisions from Indian Health Services to tribal control over a ten-year period, the Band significantly improved its health care delivery system. Its state-of-the-art Health Center provides health and dental care, behavioral health care and community health promotion, education and prevention programs, and the first-ever on-reservation disability clinic. In addition, the Tribe has implemented an efficient billing and records system that has reduced the "red-tape" typically associated with third party billing. By taking a more active role in its reservation health care, the tribally controlled Choctaw Health Center is improving community health and meeting the specific health care needs of its citizens. In 1997, the Choctaw Band's Disability Clinic received the Vice President's prestigious Hammer Award for the Clinic's effective disability determination process.

**Contact:**  
210 Hospital Circle  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
Tel: 601-656-2211  
Fax: 601-656-5091  
www.choctawnationhealth.com

---

**Choctaw Tribal Court System, 2005**  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Self-determination is the guiding principle behind all of the government initiatives undertaken by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. This nation has created a vibrant economy while investing resources into the preservation of Choctaw language and culture. At the heart of its success is its court system. Organized independently of elected leadership, the court provides an arena for fair and reliable dispute resolution. Intent on not becoming just another adversarial court of law, the Choctaw Tribal Court System strives to help both victims and offenders, and pays particular attention to tribal youth. By incorporating traditional Choctaw values of preserving peace, respecting personal dignity, and defending sovereignty in its law and judicial practice, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw created a comprehensive judicial system that responds to the needs of all its citizens.

**Contact:**  
101 Industrial Road  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
Tel: 601-663-7525  
Fax: 601-663-7500  
www.chockaw.org

---

**Chuka Chukmasi Home Loan Program, 2003**  
Division of Housing, Chickasaw Nation

Created in 1998 to increase home ownership among Chickasaw citizens and other Native Americans in Oklahoma, the Chuka Chukmasi (“beautiful home”) Home Loan Program is a secondary market home loan program that has helped more than 200 families realize the dream of home ownership. Collaborating with
investor and lender partners, the Program provides pre-home ownership education, credit and loan counseling, and down payment and closing cost assistance.

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Ada, OK 74821
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Fax: 580-421-8885

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, 2006
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Viewed as a one-stop shop for lending services, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation provides holistic community development through business and employee loans, business development trainings, and financial literacy education. Demonstrating that the connection between sovereignty and economic self-reliance is essential, the CPCDC assists citizens in building their assets as a long-term solution to poverty. With the foresight to create their own lending institution, the CPN is reiterating the business savvy demonstrated by its people at the height of the fur trading era in the 1600’s.

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Citizen Potawatomi Nation Constitution Reform, 2010
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

In 2007, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation adopted a new constitution which adopted a three-branch system of government, eliminated Secretarial Elections, and created the Citizen Potawatomi legislature. This 16-member legislative body is deliberately balanced, with eight Oklahoma members, elected at large by Oklahoma residents, and one member each from the eight legislative districts that comprise the rest of the United States, each representing a roughly equal number of Citizen Potawatomi citizens. The legislature meets virtually and all meetings are streamed and archived on the internet.

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Coast Salish Gathering, 2010
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

The Coast Salish Gathering provides an environmental policy platform for the tribal and First Nations governments, state and provincial governments, and the US and Canadian federal governments—all of which have interests in the Salish Sea region—to discuss and determine effective environmental strategies and practices. Most important for the Coast Salish people, however, it amplifies their voice on the environmental issues that matter most to them: access to toxin-free traditional foods, adequate water quality and quantity, and collective climate change policies.

Contact:
11430 Moorage Way
Coeur d’Alene Tribal Wellness Center, 2000
Benewah Medical Center, Coeur d’Alene Tribe

Created in 1998, the Wellness Center aims to promote healthy lifestyles by offering programs in fitness, aquatics, rehabilitation, childcare, and community health to 3,000 Indian and non-Indian clients. By employing the medicine wheel, or whole-life, approach to health and by focusing on preventative care, the Center complements the acute and chronic illness care provided by the Benewah Medical Center, which was created in 1990 through a joint venture between the Tribe and the City of Plummer, Idaho. Together with the Medical Center, the multi-purpose Wellness Center is the culmination of the Tribe’s goal to provide affordable health care services for all residents on the Reservation. Program participation is growing, tribal citizens are enthusiastic, and the Center is positively impacting members’ health—evidence that the Coeur d’Alene Tribe has successfully integrated primary health care, prevention, and wellness care.

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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, 2002
Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs Tribes

Charged with the overall management of its member tribes’ fisheries resources and advocating for the protection of treaty rights, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission’s (CRITFC) programs include fisheries enforcement, policy development and litigation support, fish marketing, and watershed restoration. In 2000, CRITFC created The Spirit of the Salmon Fund (a charitable restricted fund) that helps to bridge gaps between mainstream philanthropy and Indian Country – raising over $1 million from 60 donors that is directed toward the Commission’s diverse programming and grantmaking activities.

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729 NE Oregon St. Suite 200
Portland, OR  97232
Tel: 503-238-0967
Fax: 503-235-4228
www.critfc.org

Community Council Task Force, 2008
Ak-Chin Indian Community

Over the past few years, the citizens of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, located south of Phoenix, Arizona, have witnessed the land surrounding their reservation rapidly transform from fields into housing subdivisions. Worried about the impact on the reservation, the Ak-Chin Indian Community established its Community Council Task Force. The Task Force reviews all development plans for the lands surrounding the reservation to determine their resulting influence on the Community’s quality of life, and works with developers and neighboring governments to lessen any potential harm.
Coyote Valley Tribal EPA, 2002  
Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Established in 1991 to equip tribal youth between the ages of 14 and 21 with the skills needed to monitor and improve the reservation’s environment, the Tribal EPA provides summer and after-school jobs for up to 15 youth per year. The youth workers have taken on projects such as solid waste recycling, indigenous plant conservation, and stream restoration. As the future leaders of a 350-citizen tribe that was once “terminated” by the US government, the youth also play an active role in meetings with regional, state, and federal agencies to ensure the protection of ceremonial practices.

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42507 W. Peters and Nall Road  
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CTUIR Public Transit, 2010  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have become one of the largest employers in Eastern Oregon, and along with economic success came the return of tribal citizens. Nonetheless, a lack of transportation options prevented tribal citizens from taking advantage of local employment opportunities. In 2001, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Public Transit was started to address the need for public transportation. The comprehensive Confederated Tribes Public Transit program includes both a free bus and a taxi voucher service, encompassing a large service area within and beyond the reservation boundaries, which is interconnected with other non-tribal regional systems. Remarkably, the transit system has helped alleviate poverty, promoted stronger inter-governmental relations, and facilitated community engagement.

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Cultural Education and Revitalization Program, 2006  
Makah Cultural and Research Center, Makah Nation

The Cultural Education and Revitalization Program serves as the hub of the community and stewards of a world class museum collection. Keen efforts and awareness demonstrated by staff and community members make this Center unique. Programs are truly guided by the needs of the Nation and its citizens. Makah language is taught by certified teachers, while collection labels are categorized in the Makah language and stored according to culturally appropriate relationships. By claiming and caring for the treasures of their ancestors, the Makah Nation ensures the cultural viability of its people.
Cultural Resources Protection Program, 2003  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Frustrated by how tribal cultural resources were managed on tribal, federal, state, and private lands, the Tribes developed their own cultural resources protection program. The 15-year-old program is a leader in educating non-Indian agencies about pertinent laws and treaties, strengthening cultural resource laws and policies, crafting government-to-government relationships, training other tribes, and incorporating Native knowledge into a field historically dominated by non-Indians.

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Economic Development Corporation: Ho-Chunk, Inc., 2000  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

The mission of Ho-Chunk, Inc. is to advance economic self-sufficiency for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and to create job opportunities for its members. Chartered under the laws of the Winnebago Tribe and wholly owned by the Tribe, Ho-Chunk, Inc. was launched in 1994 to diversify the Tribe’s business interests while maintaining a separation between business and tribal government. Economic self-sufficiency is promoted by creating jobs through its actively managed joint ventures and passive investments which include hotels, convenience stores, web-sites, and a temporary labor service provider. Ho-Chunk, Inc. currently employs and trains 140 tribal members and operates under a tribally oriented management team. The demonstrated growth and profitability of Ho-Chunk, Inc. has invigorated tribal pride while establishing a successful business model within Indian Country.

Contact:  
1 Mission Drive  
Winnebago, NE 68071  
Tel: 402-878-2809  
Fax: 402-878-2560  
www.hochunckinc.com

Elders Cultural Advisory Council, 2000  
Forest Resources, San Carlos Apache Tribe

The Elders Cultural Advisory Council was formed by a resolution of the San Carlos Tribal Council in 1993 to advise on culturally related matters, to consult with off-reservation entities, and to administer and oversee cultural preservation activities. As a source of traditional wisdom, the Elders Council plays an active role in the Tribe’s governance by providing insight on issues as diverse as resource management, leadership responsibilities, cultural practices, and repatriation of sacred objects. The values of self-reliance, respect, and a deep connection to nature are central to traditional Apache life and are underlying themes in all Elders Cultural Advisory Council activities, consultations, and messages. In establishing the Elders Cultural Advisory
Council, the San Carlos Tribe gains access to an important source of traditional knowledge and enables a key constituency to have a voice in tribal affairs.

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**Enhancing Government-to-Government Relationships, 2000**  
Intergovernmental Affairs Department, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

The Intergovernmental Affairs Department has achieved positive intergovernmental relationships with federal, state, and local governments by pursuing a five-pronged strategy of communication, education, cooperation, contributions, and presence. Since the Department's creation, the Tribe has raised public awareness, built coalitions, and forged partnerships with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the US Forest Service. By establishing a strong presence at the state capital, forming a skilled team of tribal advocates, and developing a legislative tracking system that informs the Tribal Council of important bills and initiatives, the Department is now in a position to take a proactive role in state and federal Indian affairs and to earn credibility and respect for the Tribe amongst all governments.

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Grand Ronde, OR  97347  
Tel: 503-879-5211  
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www.grandronde.org

**Family Violence and Victim’s Services, 2003**  
Department of Family and Community Services, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Addressing the often-stigmatized issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and elder abuse, the Family Violence and Victim’s Services (FVVS) provides comprehensive resources for victims such as access to legal services, counseling, and therapy. In addition, FVVS drafted a strict tribal domestic criminal code and continues to administer re-education programs for batterers, educational campaigns, and training seminars for law enforcement, security, and the tribal judiciary.

**Contact:**
PO Box 6010  
Choctaw, MS  39350  
Tel: 601-650-1774  
Fax: 601-650-1661  
www.choctaw.org

**Flandreau Police Department, 2005**  
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe’s lands are situated within Moody County and the City of Flandreau, South Dakota. This location presents the Nation with a particular challenge: How do you provide adequate and culturally sensitive public safety and law enforcement for your citizens in mixed jurisdictions? Starting in 2000, after years of struggling to find a solution, the Tribe entered into a joint power agreement with the City of Flandreau. The result has been a single police department governed by a Public Safety Commission composed of tribal and city representatives. The department consolidates resources, delivers law enforcement services for the City of Flandreau and for all the Tribe’s trust lands, while training officers to deal respectfully
and responsibly with all citizens, Native and non-Native. The Tribe is pioneering a genuinely new intergovernmental relationship in a crucial area of public life.

Contact:
200 N. Crescent Street
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Tel: 605-997-3830
Fax: 605-997-2055
www.cityofflandreau.com

Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., 2003
Gila River Indian Community

Recognizing the need for affordable and reliable telecommunications services, the Tribe founded Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (GRTI) in 1988. A pioneer in telecommunications in Indian Country, GRTI offers affordable landline phone service, dial-up and DSL Internet service, and satellite television. GRTI has seen residential use of access lines grow from 34% to nearly 50% in six years and plays an important role in meeting the needs of the Community’s fast-growing economy.

Contact:
Box 5015, 7065 W Allison Drive
Chandler, AZ  85226
Tel: 520-796-3333
Fax: 520-796-7534
www.gilanet.net

Gila River Youth Council, 2002
Gila River Indian Community

Recognizing that their youth possess critical insight on a full range of governing issues, tribal leaders chartered the Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council in 1988 to give youth a formal voice within the tribal government. The Council is comprised of 20 youth between the ages of 14-21, who are elected by their peers to serve two-year (staggered) terms. After receiving training in communication, team building, ethics, conflict resolution, and parliamentary procedures, Youth Council members present youth issues to the tribal government, oversee various community projects, and attend local, state, and national meetings. Youth Council members have testified before the US Senate on numerous occasions, and the Council produces a continual stream of community and national leaders.

Contact:
PO Box F
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Tel: 520-562-9593
Fax: 520-562-9589
www.gricyouthcouncil.org

Government Reform, 2002
Diné Appropriate Government and Local Governance Projects,
Office of Navajo Government Development, Navajo Nation

Formed in 1989 by the Navajo Nation Council, the Office of Navajo Government Development works with the Diné people and their elected leaders to conduct government reform, foster the incorporation of Navajo culture and tradition into the Navajo Nation Code, and facilitate the transference of responsibilities from the central Navajo government to the local or chapter level. As a body dedicated to improving government
performance, the Office played a key role in the passage of the 1998 Local Governance Act and has developed and informed numerous legislative initiatives that expand tribal sovereignty and increase governmental accountability, transferability, and efficiency.

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www.ongd.navajo-nsn.gov

Grand Traverse Band Planning and Development, 2000
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Faced with a growing land base and an increasing number of visitors to the reservation, the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council established the Planning and Development Department in 1997 to build capacity within the community to accommodate new needs. The Department addressed its challenge by embarking on a comprehensive planning process that relies on community involvement at both the reservation and off-reservation levels to help identify key community needs. Since its inception, over 400 tribal members have taken part in the Department’s participatory planning process. Together with the community, the Department has overseen the development of tribal regulatory standards, housing initiatives, state-of-the-art public works projects, and plans for public spaces and public buildings. In sum, the Planning and Development Department improves the Band’s internal governance capacity and lays the groundwork for sound community growth well into the future.

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The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, 2002
Colville, Spokane, Kalispel, Kootenai, Coeur d’Alene, Nez Perce, and Umatilla Tribes

Owned by a consortium of seven tribes, the Healing Lodge is a treatment center that helps Native American youth and their families heal from the trauma of alcohol and drug abuse. With a focus on blending culture and spirituality with mental health/chemical dependency treatment, services include in-patient chemical dependency programs, mental health counseling, family counseling, a juvenile justice improvement project, recreation, education, and cultural activities. Since its creation in 1989, the Healing Lodge has served over 1,500 youth from more than 150 tribes, giving them fresh opportunities to better themselves and their communities.

Contact:
5600 East 8th Avenue
Spokane, WA  99212
Tel: 509-533-6910
Fax: 509-535-2863
www.healinglodge.org

Ho-Chunk Village, 2015
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

The 40-acre Ho-Chunk Village purposefully integrates housing (both to rent and to own) commerce and light industry in a walkable community. It meets many needs within the community, providing opportunities for first-time home ownership, integrated rentals for elders, and space for businesses to thrive.
Umatilla Reservation Housing Authority, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Recognizing the necessary links between promoting a strong economy, maintaining positive cultural connections, and the ability to own a home, the Umatilla Housing Authority promotes the “Wapayatat” Homeownership: Financial, Credit and Consumer Protection Program. The seven-week course provides asset building and saving strategies, while generating awareness about predatory lending practices. The program also assists citizens in developing financial literacy skills using culturally appropriate curriculum, bringing the dream of homeownership closer to reality for their people. As citizens build and own homes on tribal land, the community and the Tribes are strengthened.

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www.umatilla.nsn.us/urha.html

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

The Joint Agency Management Plan brings together three governments – the Lac Courte Oreilles Band, the State of Wisconsin, and the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service – to co-manage the Chippewa Flowage, a 15,300-acre reservoir created in 1923 that inundated a tribal village. Taking into account the cultural, aesthetic, and economic value of the Flowage, the plan provides a framework for the three parties to coordinate management activities and decisions through a consensus-based approach.

Contact
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Hopi Child Care Program, 2006
The Hopi Tribe

The Hopi Child Care Program assists families in accessing quality care for children of parents pursuing education and those with work demands that keep them away from home. Understanding the importance of early childhood development coupled with the need for culturally appropriate care, Hopi citizens now have the ability to better provide for their families. The Program gives parents the security of knowing their children are safe through affordable and accessible channels. The Tribe asserts, “These children are our greatest resource. How they are treated as young children impacts the future of the Hopi Tribe.”

Contact:
Hopi Education Endowment Fund, 2006
The Hopi Tribe

In a pursuit to ensure growth, protect assets, and meet the present and future educational needs of the Hopi Tribe, an ordinance establishing the Hopi Education Endowment Fund was approved. Taking advantage of IRS Code Section 7871 allows for tax deductible contributions made to the Tribe to support Hopi educational initiatives. By investing in the human capital of their greatest resource—the children—, the program is not only ensuring and growing financial access to higher education for their citizens, but also promoting the Hopi concept of “Sumi’nangwa”—coming together to do things for the benefit of all.

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Hopi Jr./Sr. High: Two Plus Two Plus Two, 2000
Hopi Junior/Senior High School, The Hopi Tribe

Developed in 1997, the Two Plus Two Plus Two college transition program is a partnership between Hopi Junior/Senior High School, Northland Pioneer College, and Northern Arizona University. The program recruits junior and senior high school students to enroll in classes (including distance learning courses) that offer concurrent college level credits. Upon graduation, students enrolled in Two Plus Two Plus Two can earn up to thirty transferable credits to any state or out-of-state accredited community college or university. The Program has led to a growing demand for math and science courses by students within the school and to increased college enrollment. Two Plus Two Plus Two is helping Hopi students attain advanced educational degrees and, in so doing, is empowering them with technological and academic skills that they can bring back to the rural reservation.

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www.hjshs.k12.az.us

The Hopi Land Team, 2005
Office of the Chairman, The Hopi Tribe

Reclaiming traditional lands has been a primary concern of the Hopi Tribe for the last century. In 1996, significant land purchases became possible under the terms of a settlement with the United States. The tribal government was faced with the problem of developing a plan for reacquiring lands, prioritizing various goals for the land, and evaluating potential purchases. In response to this challenge, in 1998, the Tribe created the Hopi Land Team, a committee of the Tribal Council. With the goal of striking a balance between preservation and the future, the Team works to identify potential purchases, evaluate their cultural and
economic significance and potential, and recommend purchases. The work of the Team leads not only to new development initiatives that increase tribal revenues, but it also brings critical cultural resources and sacred sites back to the Tribe.

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Idaho Gray Wolf Recovery Program, 1999
Wildlife Management Program, Nez Perce Tribe

By developing a plan that includes monitoring, outreach, species management/control, and research, the Tribe is now leading the statewide recovery of the endangered Gray Wolf. The recovery program, which meets the guidelines developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Services, has resulted in a wolf population that is three times larger than it was five years ago. The Idaho Gray Wolf Recovery Program has brought recognition to the Tribe's ability to manage a complex and often controversial project. By asserting treaty rights as co-managers of fish and wildlife resources, the Tribe has forged solid working relationships with federal and state governments.

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www.nezperce.org

Indian Child Welfare Services, 2006
Department of Indian Child Welfare Services, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Seeking to establish collaborative working relationships with the state while firmly asserting sovereignty over Maliseet children, a Child Welfare Department was formed by the Houlton Band. The department created a Child Protective Team made up of professionals and volunteers to review and seek options for children needing services. Drastically reducing the number of children in out-of-home-care situations through culturally and family appropriate solutions, the Houlton Band is preventing child removals, supporting families, and fostering government-to-government relations. Most importantly, the Band is reclaiming its future, by caring for Maliseet children.

Contact:
88 Bell Road
Littleton, ME  04730
Tel: 207-532-4273
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www.maliseet.org

Institutionalized Quality Improvement Program, 1999
Puyallup Tribal Health Authority, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Following a major tribally-initiated restructuring in the early 1980s that created a quality improvement committee and a flatter organizational structure, the PTHA has increased patient access for urgent care visits, reduced “no show” rates, created clinical objectives, increased dental treatments, and incorporated the use of traditional healers into health care delivery. The Puyallup Tribe's Quality Improvement Program has enabled the PTHA to effectively address many of the health care needs of the community that were previously unmet under the Indian Health Service's management. With six full time physicians and a staff of 210, the PTHA
has become a model for other Indian nations seeking to create and sustain health systems that meet the highest standard of excellence.

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www.puyallup-tribe.com

Intercultural Leadership Initiative, 2008
Lac du Flambeau Education Department, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

A generation of racial conflict makes it difficult for students from the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians to succeed at the district high school. Since 1998, the Intercultural Leadership Initiative has provided academic and social opportunities, promoted understanding and friendship, and helped youth overcome their prejudices.

Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse, 2002
Haudenosaunee/Iroquois Confederacy

Officially sanctioned by the Grand Council of Chiefs to represent the Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois) in international lacrosse competition, the Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse Team represents a sovereign nation in world competition. The team – which has won numerous medals and awards – has successfully engaged state departments, embassies, and consulates around the world to recognize Iroquois sovereignty. Team members travel using Haudenosaunee passports and the team has created a corps of Iroquois ambassadors that builds international goodwill and educates fellow athletes, government officials, and the public about the Iroquois—and their role as founders of the sport.

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Fax: 613-932-0092
www.iroquoisnationals.org

Joint Tribal-State Jurisdiction, 2010
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

In 2006, Leech Lake set aside generations of racial tension that existed between the tribe and its non-Native neighbors in order to focus on community healing. As a result, a DWI Wellness Court was formed by the Leech Lake Tribal Court and Minnesota’s Ninth Judicial District’s Cass County District Court to adjudicate and rehabilitate substance abusers. One year later, Leech Lake established a second Wellness Court in collaboration Itasca County District Court. The Wellness Courts operate under a joint powers agreement and serve both Native and non-Native people. They function as multi-agency advocacy and enforcement. Since its inception, the Joint Tribal-State Jurisdiction has grown in capacity, outreach, impact, and success and stands as an outstanding example of expanded self-governance.

Contact:
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Cass Lake, MN  56633
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www.llojibwe.com
Kenai CASA and Kenaitze Tribal Courts, 2015
Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Alaska’s first Tribal Court “Court Appointed Special Advocates” (CASA) volunteer program, the Kenai CASA program trains volunteers to support abused and neglected children in both the tribal and state courts. This partnership with the state of Alaska means all such children in the area have a CASA volunteer, and that same volunteer stays with them even if the case transfers between state and tribal court.

Contact:
PO Box 988
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Tel: 907-335-7200
www.kenaitze.org

Kake Circle Peacemaking, 2003
The Organized Village of Kake

Restoring its traditional method of dispute resolution, the Organized Village of Kake adopted Circle Peacemaking as its tribal court in 1999. Circle Peacemaking brings together victims, wrongdoers, families, religious leaders, and social service providers in a forum that restores relationships and community harmony. With a recidivism rate of nearly zero, it is especially effective in addressing substance abuse-associated crimes.

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PO Box 316
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Land Claims Distribution Trust Fund, 1999
Chairman’s Office, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

After 26 years of negotiation with the US government over how monies from a land claims settlement would be distributed, the Band assumed financial control over the settlement by creating a Trust Fund system that provides annual payments in perpetuity to Band elders for supplementing their social security benefits. The Land Claims Distribution Fund was created to not only provide an additional permanent safety net for the Tribe's elders, but also to honor their lifetime contributions and sacrifices. The Fund also enables the Tribe to effectively manage its own settlement award rather than having it remain under the management of the US government.

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Leadership Institute at the Santa Fe Indian School, 2010
All Indian Pueblo Council
Founded in 1997, the Leadership Institute at the Santa Fe Indian School aims to create a dynamic learning environment in which community members not only learn and teach, but are able to actively contribute to the success of their nations. Four themes guide the Institute’s work: leadership, community service, public policy, and critical thinking. These themes are realized through the Institute’s four programs: Community Institutes, a Summer Policy Academy, High School Symposia, and Enrichment Opportunities.

Contact:
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Lummi Nation Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank, 2014
Lummi Nation

The Lummi Nation is comprised of nearly 13,000 acres of uplands and 7,000 acres of tidelands. In 1999, a reservation-wide inventory found that approximately 43% of the reservation uplands are wetlands. Given the critical need for housing development and commercial development on the reservation and the fact that a large proportion of the reservation is designated as wetlands, a wetlands mitigation solution needed to be identified. The US Clean Water Act requires that any development on wetlands provide a mitigation solution to the potential impacts on wetlands. The tribe determined that a wetlands and habitat mitigation bank would achieve all of these desired outcomes at the lowest cost and provide the best incentives to businesses and housing development. While other tribal nations may not face exactly the same problem of wetlands mitigation needs, they do face issues of how to effectively manage the potential economic impacts of economic development, housing development and other commercial activities on their lands. They often have the dual objectives of protecting ecologically important or fragile zones but also providing opportunities for housing and other development to occur in a feasible manner. Therefore, the results from this example could be expanded to other nations as well.

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www.lummi-nsn.gov

Menominee Community Center of Chicago, 2003
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

A unique partnership between an urban Indian center and a tribal government, the tribally funded Community Center serves nearly 500 Menominee tribal citizens living in the greater Chicago area. The Center and the tribal government work together to ensure that all of its citizens are actively involved in tribal affairs by organizing trips to the reservation, providing full electoral rights for off-reservation citizens, and by holding official tribal legislature meetings at the Center.

Miccousukee Tribe Section 404 Permitting Program, 2005
Real Estate Services, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

The reservation lands of the Miccosukee Tribe lie largely within the Everglades National Park. Development on these lands is subject to elaborate regulations by a host of federal agencies that hindered development and other uses of their lands by the Miccosukee people, including the building of traditional dwellings and family
gardening. Tribal citizens had to negotiate a time-consuming, regulatory maze almost every time they engaged in land-use activities. With the Section 404 Permitting Program, the Tribe set out to streamline the regulatory process and, more importantly, to win for itself a stronger role in regulatory activity. By contracting on-reservation authority from the US Environmental Protection Agency to issue land permits, enforce environmental codes, and manage permit violations, the Miccosukee Tribe is not only enabling its citizens to improve their own homes and engage in traditional cultural activities, but it is also expanding the reach of the Tribe’s own governmental powers.

Contact:
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Tel: 305-223-8380, ext. 2243
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www.miccosukeetribe.com

Migizi Business Camp, 2005
Education Department, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

In 1994, after 120 years of struggle, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians finally re-obtained federal recognition. Ever since, tribal priorities included strengthening self-governance and the tribal economy. Their economic strategy followed two paths: the development of tribal enterprises and the encouragement of citizen-owned, small businesses. In tribal discussions, many citizens indicated an interest in starting businesses of their own. The Band responded by implementing a work readiness and job training for teenagers and young adults. Five years ago, the Band’s planning and education departments joined forces to create the Migizi Business Camp for tribal youth. For six days, students are taken off the reservation to learn business development concepts and build entrepreneurial skills. They complete business plans and present their ideas to a panel of judges. The Camp represents a conscious effort by the tribal government to involve its younger citizens in the effort to build an economic future for the nation.

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375 River Street
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Tel: 231-723-8288, ext. 6
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Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory Conservation Code, 1999
Department of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

In 1997, the Band successfully developed a conservation code that enables the Tribe to exercise its treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather. The Code sets out detailed hunting and fishing regulations for Band members that protect the natural resources while allowing for the continuation of traditional practices. The Conservation Code has endured challenges in district courts, appeals courts, and the Supreme Court, which ruled in March 1999 that Band citizens retain their rights to hunt, fish, and gather in east-central Minnesota under Band regulations. Crucially, good will between Band members and non-Indians has grown. The Code demonstrates that tribes can successfully develop, implement, and monitor important natural resource programs in cooperation with non-Indian governments.

Contact:
43408 Oodena Dr.
Onamia, MN 56359
Morongo Tutoring Program, 2006
Social Services Department, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

The Morongo Tutoring Program is one of the reasons the high school graduation rate of Morongo students is now at approximately ninety percent, the highest in tribal history. By providing much more than tutoring services, including life skills for early childhood through high school development; continuous support and encouragement; advocates for parents, students, and schools; as well as trained staff to maintain and promote positive relationships between the Band and the school district, the Morongo Tutoring Program places formal education as a priority for the Band, ensuring future generations of capable leaders.

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Muscogee Creek Nation Reintegration Program, 2008
Muscogee Creek Nation

Although the state of Oklahoma has one of the largest prison systems in the US, it provides released prisoners with little post-incarceration support. Many struggle to find their way on the “outside” and are eventually re-incarcerated. In the early 2000s, the Muscogee Creek Nation set out to tackle this problem. The Nation’s Reintegration Program works with tribal citizens before and after they leave prison, paying attention to everything from jobs and housing to counseling and spiritual needs.

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Na’Nizhoozhi Center, Inc., 2003
The Navajo Nation in cooperation with Zuni Pueblo, City of Gallup, McKinley County, and the State of New Mexico

Responding to the distressing rates of accidents, deaths, and other alcohol-related problems in Gallup, NM, the Navajo Nation partnered with Zuni Pueblo, the City of Gallup, McKinley County, and the State of New Mexico to establish the Na’Nizhoozhi Center in 1992. The Center has been an effective force in promoting wellness and safety by providing protective custody, shelter, referral services, and culturally based in-patient and out-patient substance abuse treatment services to meet the needs of its Indian clients.

Contact:
2205 East Boyd Drive
“Nation Building” Among the Chilkoot Tlingit, 2002
Chilkoot Indian Association

Excluded by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Chilkoot Tlingit are engaged in a process of nation-building. The process began in 1990 with the revival of their dormant tribal government, the Chilkoot Indian Association (CIA). From this institutional foundation, the 480-member CIA successfully negotiated the acquisition of a land base and began developing self-determined programs and initiatives. Today, the CIA administers almost $1 million of programs and contracts in the areas of education, health, housing, and economic development and participates in government-to-government relationships with local, state, federal, and international governmental entities.

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Navajo Methamphetamine Task Forces, 2006
Navajo Department of Behavioral Services, Navajo Nation

Taking a proactive stance on policy issues, options, and recommendations in the areas of prevention, treatment, and/or enforcement, the Methamphetamine Task Forces actively combat a tidal wave of destruction within their communities. Drawing upon education, community involvement, cultural philosophies, and collaborations to address the burgeoning crisis, the Task Forces incorporate participation from elders, youth, recovered addicts and current users, law enforcement, health officials, and policy makers to embrace “The Beauty Way of Life,” and systematically combat what many view as the most dire crisis in recent history.

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Fax: 928-871-2266

Navajo Nation Archaeology Department – Training Programs, 2000
Navajo Nation Archaeology Department, Navajo Nation

The Navajo Nation Archaeology Department was created in 1977 to facilitate historic preservation on Navajo Nation lands as mandated by both US and tribal government legislation. In 1988 and again in 1993, the Department expanded to include training programs, undertaken in partnership with Northern Arizona University and Ft. Lewis College, which are designed to give Navajo students the professional skills needed to conduct these important historic preservation activities. The training programs provide field and laboratory experience to Navajo graduate and undergraduate students concentrating in anthropology or archaeology. By combining academic training with practical application on the Navajo Reservation and western technical skills with traditional Navajo knowledge and oral history, the programs are preparing a pool of qualified Native professionals to assume cultural resource positions that historically have been filled by non-Navajos.

Contact:
Navajo Nation Corrections Project, 2003
Department of Behavioral Services, Navajo Nation

Established in 1983, the Corrections Project facilitates, coordinates, and advocates for the use of spiritual ceremonies, cultural activities, and counseling for Navajo and other Indians in correctional facilities. As the liaison between inmates, their families, and Indian and non-Indian government agencies, the project researches and implements unmet spiritual, cultural, and legal needs. In 2002 alone, the 30 correctional facilities were visited and more than 2,000 clients were served.

Contact:
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Navajo Nation Sales Tax, 2005
Office of the Navajo Tax Commission, Navajo Nation
Challenges facing sovereign nations include how to support themselves financially, run their governments, and meet the needs of their peoples. In 1974, the Navajo Nation established a Navajo Tax Commission. Following a US Supreme Court decision affirming the Nation’s right to impose taxes, the Commission began to collect specific taxes. In 2002, the Nation instituted a tribal sales tax as a strategy for decreasing tribal government dependence on revenue from federal and state grants and from the sale of non-renewable resources. Relying on the traditional concept Beenahaz’aanii Nahat’a (an act of gathering individuals to reach group understanding), the tribal government consulted citizens before introducing the policy, generating a buy-in for an initiative that has already raised $43 million for the Nation. Among other things, sales tax revenues fund local government, giving financial teeth to a major effort by the Nation to put more decision-making power in the hands of local Navajo communities.

Contact:
PO Box 1903
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Tel: 928-871-6681
Fax: 928-871-7608
www.navajotax.org

Navajo Studies Department, 1999
Rough Rock Community School, Navajo Nation

Created in 1966 as the first contract school in the country, Rough Rock is a Navajo-run institution that combines traditional Navajo learning with Western education. Its Navajo Studies curriculum, which addresses such subjects as culture, history, and language, was named by the Tribal Council as the only “Navajo Studies” program on the reservation. Today, students from any of the Nation's chapters are eligible to attend. As the first school to be controlled entirely by a local Indian community, Rough Rock Community School paved the way for the approximately 200 contract/grant schools that have subsequently opened on Indian reservations across the United States.

Contact:
Rough Rock Community School
HL-61 Hwy-59 PO Box 5000-PTT
Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Family, 2000
(Formerly: Navajo Child Special Advocacy Program)
Division of Social Services, Navajo Nation

Responding to high rates of child abuse and neglect, the Navajo Child Special Advocacy Project was launched in 1990 to provide Western and Navajo therapy to victims of sexual abuse between the ages of 3 and 17. With five offices on the Reservation, the project administers Navajo diagnosis, treatment, and traditional healing, as well as sand play, art therapy, and forensic interviews. Through an array of therapeutic approaches, the program has created a safe and nurturing environment that fosters emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of children and their families. Prior to the creation of the Navajo Child Special Advocacy Project, child victims of sexual abuse and their families lacked adequate support and help. Today, the program has accomplished the almost insurmountable task of coordinating the efforts of separate agencies by forming a core discipline group to address child sexual abuse. The results of this effort ensure that law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, and advocates can work together for the benefit of the child.

Contact:
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www.ntccf.org

New Law and Old Law Together, 1999
Judicial Branch, Navajo Nation

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation seeks to revive and strengthen traditional common law while ensuring the efficacy of the Nation’s western-based court model adopted by the Nation. With over 250 Peacemakers among its seven court districts, the Judicial Branch utilizes traditional methods of dispute resolution as the “law of preference,” which allows the courts to be more responsive to people, issues, and traditional institutions. Responding to a desire for others to learn how the Navajo judicial system operates and to teach others how to effectively utilize common law, the Supreme Court has held more than 13 sessions in off-Reservation venues since 1992. The Branch has also developed the Navajo Nation Bar Association, comprised of over 300 members who are licensed to practice in the Navajo Courts.

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www.navajocourts.org

Newtok Relocation Effort, 2010
Native Village of Newtok

Newtok is a traditional Yup’ik village located on the Ninglick River in far-western Alaska. Newtok is now in the process of relocating nine miles south to Nelson Island, the site of the community’s traditional summer camp. Newtok itself has taken the lead in working with dozens of state and federal agencies to piece together
its relocation efforts. In 2006, the Newtok Planning Group formed as a centralized, community-specific strategy to relocate the village. The Newtok Planning Group is a one-of-a-kind partnership between Newtok, state and federal government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. As a result, these groups now gather together in the same room to strategize Newtok’s relocation.

Contact:
PO Box 5545
Newtok, AK 99559
Tel: 907-236-2316
Fax: 907-237-2428
http:/www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/planning/Newtok_Planning_Group_Web_page.htm

Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department, 2015
Nez Perce Tribe

As one of the largest and most successful fisheries programs in the United States, The Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department has been instrumental in restoring Columbia Basin salmonids. It protects and enhances fishing rights reserved by the tribe in its treaties, and has become an indispensable partner in the restoration of fisheries resources in the Pacific Northwest.

Contact:
PO Box 365
Lapwai, ID 83540
Tel: 208-621-3730
www.nezperce.org

Northwest Intertribal Court System, 2003
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

The Northwest Intertribal Court System (NICS) assists tribes in developing tribal courts that provide fair, equitable, and uniform justice for all who fall within their jurisdiction. Owned by a consortium of tribes in Washington State, NICS recognizes the sovereignty, individual character, and unique needs of individual tribes. Its services, which include code writing and technical assistance, help Indian nations develop the necessary legal infrastructure for handling a full array of civil and criminal matters.

Contact:
20818 44th Ave West Suite 120
Lynwood, WA 98036
Tel: 425-774-5808
Fax: 425-744-7704
www.nics.ws

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, 2003
The 43 federally recognized tribes of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho

Serving tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) was created in 1972 to increase tribes’ ability to exercise control over the design and development of tribal health care delivery systems. Governed by tribal government delegates, NPAIHB facilitates intertribal coordination and promotes intergovernmental consultation. A leader in data collection and advocacy, NPAIHB also administers the first and largest tribal epidemiology center.
Off-Reservation Indian Foster Care, 1999
Human Services Division, Fond du Lac Lake Superior Band of Chippewa

By creatively reacting to state laws regarding foster home licensing, the Band established a foster care agency that dramatically reduced the number of Indian children in non-Indian foster care while simultaneously increasing the number of Indian children in Indian foster care. The agency has successfully channeled nearly $2 million for foster care reimbursement to Indian families in northeastern Minnesota. While the Fond du Lac Government had been able to license homes within the boundaries of the reservation, this was the first time an all-Indian board sponsored by a tribal government had been able to recruit and license homes outside of reservation boundaries.

Ohero:kon “Under the Husk” Rites of Passage, 2015
Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Through ceremony, ritual, and teachings, Ohero:kon transitions adolescents into adults over a period of seven years. It engages members of the next generation to acquire and utilize cultural knowledge about self, community, and environment to prepare them for adulthood.

Ojibwe Language Program, 1999
Department of Education, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Created in 1995, this tribally funded program serves 350 students (from toddlers to teenagers) and uses elder-youth interaction, song books, and comic books to teach the Ojibwe language. In addition, the Program broadcasts language classes to local public schools in an effort to teach the Ojibwe language, history, and culture to non-Indian children. Teaching the Band's children their traditional language has allowed Mille Lacs Band members to pass on tribal values more effectively. At the same time, it has served as an important tool in both preserving the Band's culture and strengthening bonds between Band members.
ONABEN’s Innovative Models for Enterprise Development, 2005
ONABEN - A Native American Business Network

Founded by a consortium of Native nations in the Pacific Northwest, ONABEN’s mission is to increase self-reliance by promoting the development of tribal-citizen-owned small businesses and the diversification of reservation economies. ONABEN’s programs provide financial counseling, business mentoring, start-up financing, links to tribal efforts, and access to a network of experienced teachers and business people. Its annual “Trading at the River” conference gathers together entrepreneurs, tribal leaders, and experts to trade information about small business development. Conference participants also make network connections that can assist entrepreneurs as they try to support themselves and their families while they also contribute to their nations’ economies. As the ONABEN network continues to grow, its enormous value to both tribal citizens and its member nations grows as well.

Contact:
11825 SW Greenburg Road, Suite B-3
Tigard, OR  97223
Tel: 503-968-1500
Fax: 503-968-1548
www.onaben.org

Oneida Advocacy through Investment Holdings, 2010
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

Today, the leaders of the Oneida Nation Trust Advocacy Department are leaders in the Socially Responsible Investing (or SRI) movement. Oneida is now positioned as an activist and is having a positive impact of environmental concerns, human rights, corporate culture, Indigenous issues, and the entire SRI community—all the while earning a market return on its portfolio. To expand their impact, SRI leaders at Oneida have provided education and training to committed Oneida citizens who are, with newly raised awareness, more actively managing their own investments. To expand the impact of SRI across Indian Country, the Oneida developed a guidebook focused on ways other tribes can integrate socially responsible investing in their portfolios.

Contact:
PO Box 365
Oneida, WI  54155
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Fax: 920-496-7491
www.oneidanation.org

Oneida Nation Farms, 2005
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

In the 1820s, a portion of the Oneida people of New York moved to Wisconsin, where they took up their accustomed practices as farmers. Over the next hundred years, the Oneida Nation lost nearly all its lands and much of its own agrarian tradition. In 1978, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin established the Oneida Nation Farms, beginning with only 150 acres of land and 25 head of cattle. Today, the operation includes over 8,000
acres of agricultural and conservation lands; 400 cattle; 100 buffalo; and major crops such as soybeans and corn, and diverse produce such as apples, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, snap beans, squash, and pumpkins. Oneida Nation Farms is a successful, profitable enterprise based on sustainable development, environmental stewardship, respect for the value of whole foods, and a healthy diet for Oneida citizens. Founded on the philosophy that the current generation must consider the impact of its actions on the next seven generations, Oneida Nation Farms nourishes the Oneida people in multiple ways.

Contact:
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Seymour, WI  54165-8138
Tel: 920-833-7952
Fax: 920-833-2559
E-mail: farm@oneidanation.org
www.oneidanation.org/farm/

Osage Nation Governmental Reform Initiative, 2008
Osage Nation

At the turn of the 20th century, the US government abolished the 1881 Osage Nation Constitution and imposed rules for land ownership and citizenship. Many Osage citizens were disenfranchised and the Tribal Council was granted only limited powers, which lead to years of weak government, corruption, and turmoil. Over 100 years later, the Osage Government Reform Initiative began the task of designing a new government that would better represent and serve all Osages. As a result of the Initiative, the Osage Nation adopted a new constitution in June 2006. Written by the Osage people, it has brought back into the tribal community the thousands of citizens who had once been excluded.

Contact:
627 Grandview Ave.
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www.osagetribe.com

Owe’neh Bupingeh Rehabilitation Project, 2014
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

The Owe’neh Bupingeh Rehabilitation Project aims to balance the preservation of the Ohkay Owingeh plazas with functional renovations of the homes, permitting contemporary life and cultural traditions to comfortably co-exist. Preserving the core of the pueblo has long been a goal of the tribe, but until the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA), it was very difficult for tribes to set housing policies or invest in historic housing. Owe’neh Bupingeh is the spiritual center of the community. Several times a year, the plazas are filled with people to participate in ceremonial dances. This project marks a significant step toward preserving the cultural heritage of Ohkay Owingeh through rehabilitating the traditional homes that frame these plazas. The success of the Owe’neh Bupingeh project is a testament to the commitment and good governance of the tribal council. When this project began, no pueblo had previously developed a comprehensive preservation plan that sought to preserve the remaining homes and bring daily life back to the plazas. There was not a set path to finance such a complex project, and very few examples of working with various federal and state agencies as partners to discuss how their conflicting standards might be secondary to the tribe’s values.

Contact:
PO Box 1059
Ohkay Owingeh, NM 87566
Pharmacy On-Line Billing Initiative, 2000
Human Services Division, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

In 1995, faced with rising pharmaceutical costs, limited Indian Health Service (IHS) funds, and an inability to bill and collect from third party insurers, the Human Services Division contracted with a private sector firm to design and implement a computerized pharmacy billing system. The first of its kind for Indian Country, Fond du Lac’s on-line system not only increases the Division’s revenue stream, but also updates prices automatically, interfaces with the Indian Health Service’s Resource Patient Management System for health record-keeping, and warns of drug interactions. This initiative and its spin-offs at Fond du Lac (in dentistry, for example) demonstrate the Tribe’s capacity to direct complicated technological innovations that significantly improve existing management information systems. The initiative is also noteworthy for the changes it augured in IHS policy and for the partnership it created between the Band, the IHS, and the private sector in searching for monetary support that went beyond the sources of tribal health care funds.

Contact:
927 Trettel Lane
Cloquet, MN 55720
Tel: 218-879-1227
Fax: 218-879-8378
www.fdlrez.com

Pine Hill Health Center, 2008
Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.
Ramah Chapter, Navajo Nation

In the Ramah Chapter of the Navajo Nation—as in many parts of Indian Country—late detection of breast cancer leads to disproportionally high rates of breast cancer mortality. Ramah Navajo’s Pine Hill Health Center devised a creative response: it launched a series of “Mammo Days,” educational and social outings designed to encourage Navajo women to get regular breast cancer exams. Highly popular, Mammo Days meet a critical need in a culturally sensitive and medically effective way.

Contact:
PO Box 310
Pine Hill, NM 87357
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Fax: 505-775-3633

Poeh Center: Sustaining and Constructing Legacies, 2000
Poeh Cultural Center, Pueblo of Pojoaque

Faced with the common challenge of raising funds for construction of a cultural center and museum, the Tribal Council created the Pojoaque Pueblo Construction Services Corporation in 1993. The Corporation’s chartering mandate was to generate revenues for cultural activities and to oversee the construction and maintenance of the Poeh Center and Museum. Having completed a variety of local construction initiatives (including the Poeh Center) and having received its 8(a) certification, today the Pojoaque Pueblo Construction Services Corporation bids profitably on commercial projects throughout New Mexico and provides a sustainable funding stream for cultural and artistic activities. As a result, the Poeh Center is able to offer training and studio space to Pueblo artists and stimulate knowledge of Pueblo legacies and traditions. By
blending cultural revitalization and economic development in a unique partnership, the Pueblo is creating new revenues and employment opportunities through its construction company and providing support to cultural activities for years to come.

Contact:
78 Cities of Gold Road
Santa Fe, NM 87506
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Fax: 505-455-0174
www.poehcenter.com

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Child Welfare Program, 2014
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Child Welfare Program’s provides holistic wrap-around services to the tribal community to keep S'Klallam families connected and intact. As an expression of sovereignty, the tribe asserts its right to operate and manage programs infused with S'Klallam values, to strengthen and honor tribal families. Port Gamble S'Klallam is the first tribe in the nation to receive approval to run its own Title IV-E program governing guardianship assistance, foster care, and adoption assistance. Because of this, all programming is deliberately infused with S'Klallam culture and values to ensure program responsiveness to the needs of S'Klallam children and families. The tribe made a conscious decision to access these funding streams and run the programs in a uniquely S'Klallam way and, when possible, provide healing to the community regarding child welfare practice.

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Tel: 360297-9654
www.pgst.sns.us

Potawatomi Leadership Program, 2014
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Despite growing prosperity for the Tribe, young Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) tribal members lack knowledge about the Tribe’s heritage, economic structure, and governance and were often disengaged as a consequence. As members of the aging Business Committee looked to the next generation of tribal members, they worried that qualified, knowledgeable leaders were in short supply. The tribal Chairman often states, “We can always hire specialists and the right technical staff. We can’t hire leaders. Our leaders come from our youth, and it is our responsibility to prepare them.” CPN tribal leadership realized a concerted effort must be made to nurture the next generation of leaders. Ultimately, tribal leadership proposed and implemented the Potawatomi Leadership Program to provide an opportunity for a group of high-achieving college aged citizens to participate in an annual summer internship. The six-week program aims to educate promising young citizens from around the world about the government, culture, and economic development of the nation. At its core, the program strives to cultivate talent from within the CPN to ensure that younger generations are prepared for a role in the future governance of their tribe.

Contact:
1601 Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801
Tel: 405-875-3121
www.potawatomi.org
Professional Empowerment Program, 2005
SWO – Human Services Agency, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

Across Indian Country, programs and businesses depend on skilled, committed, and responsible workers. However, some Indian citizens on reservations have limited experience in the workplace; little education; and face problems finding day care, adequate transportation, and other necessities. Representatives of various programs of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate got together to discuss the challenges of equipping their workforce with adequate skills. The result of these conversations was the Professional Empowerment Program (PEP). Offered six times a year to every employee of the Nation, PEP’s therapeutic model focuses on interpersonal problems and conflicts and provides participants with the necessary tools for maintaining successful employment. It has led to significantly less employee turnover in the tribe’s programs and businesses and a dramatic drop in recidivism in the tribal TANF program. But PEP does even more: it helps people live healthier lives and become more productive citizens of the Nation.

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PO Box 509
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Fax: 605-742-1095

Project Falvmmichi, 2008
Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles/Youth Advisory Board – Choctaw Nation

“It is not cool to hit or be hit” is the straightforward motto of Project Falvmmichi, a school-based program of the Choctaw Nation designed to tackle the problem of domestic violence. The program teaches elementary school students positive ways to deal with anger and resolve conflicts. Today, more than 300 teen mentors work with second graders in over thirty public schools. Violent behavior harms the Choctaw Nation’s citizens, families, and future—but through Project Falvmmichi, the Nation is building intolerance for violent behavior from the ground up.

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http://www.choctawnation.com

Project Pueblo: Economic Development Revitalization Project, 2010
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Project Pueblo is a top-to-bottom engagement in the nation-building process. From 2006-2010, the Tribe has developed and undertaken a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, a new set of economic and business policies, new business and commercial laws and regulations, and a radically new mindset geared toward long-term planning, strategic thinking, and wide-ranging evaluation. In sum, Project Pueblo has reinvigorated the methods by which governance and business is conducted at Ysleta del Sur.

Contact:
119 S. Old Pueblo
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Fax: 915-859-8151 (ext. 7734)
www.ysletadelsurpueblo.org

Pte Hca Ka, Inc., 1999
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
This tribally chartered corporation developed a culturally compatible management system for reestablishing buffalo as a focal point for socio-economic development, community cohesion, and self-determination. Pte Hca Ka, Inc. operates a mobile meat processing facility, and is currently seeking acquisition of 22,000 acres for a buffalo habitat that would become the first tribal national park. By integrating Lakota traditions into an economic development strategy, Pte Hca Ka, Inc. not only operates a profitable enterprise, but is also restoring cultural values into the Tribal economy and fostering pride and dignity among Tribal citizens. Pte Hca Ka, Inc. has been featured in numerous documentaries and has won widespread praise as a culturally appropriate development effort.

Contact:
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Tel: 605-733-2547
Fax 605-733-2585
pte@lakotanetwork.com

**Quil Ceda Village, 2003**
The Tulalip Tribes

Developed to achieve economic diversification while exercising tribal sovereignty, Quil Ceda Village is the first tribal city in the US. Chartered under tribal laws and governed by a council-manager form of government that enacts local ordinances, the Village has emerged as a thriving retail, recreation, and hospitality destination. The Village employs 500 Indians and non-Indians and is home to a business park, a new casino, and acreage for future development.

Contact:
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
Tel: 360-716-5000
Fax: 360-651-4998
www.quilcedavillage.com

**Red Lake Walleye Recovery Program, 2006**
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Clearly demonstrating that tribal nations not only have the ability to make large scale achievements in resource conservation, but that they can do so with unprecedented success, the Red Lake Walleye Fishery Recovery Project has brought the walleye fish population back from virtual extinction to an optimal level in less than a decade. Operating under a consensus arrangement with local and commercial fisherman, as well as state and federal officials, the Recovery Project now determines when, how, and who can fish the historic waters from which the Band claims their name.

Contact:
PO Box 279
Red Lake, MN 56671
Tel: 218-679-3959
Fax: 218-679-2830

**Rosebud Sioux Tribal Education Department and Code, 1999**
Education Department, Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Responding to disproportionately low academic attendance, achievement, and attainment levels, the Tribe created an education department (TED) in 1990 and developed a Code that regulates and coordinates various aspects of the tribal schools, public schools, and federally-funded Indian education programs on the reservation. Since the TED was established and the Code enacted, dropout rates have declined substantially and graduation rates have increased. By supplementing state and federal law, the Tribal Education Department and Code enables the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to play a greater role in the education of its youth. The Tribe is now responsible for critical components of formal education—curriculum, staffing, and funding—that, for decades, had been assumed by non-tribal governments.

**Contact:**
PO Box 430
Rosebud, SD 57570
Tel: 605-747-2833
Fax: 605-747-5479
www.rosebushsioutribe-nsn.gov

**Safe, Clean Waters, 2002**
Lummi Tribal Sewer and Water District, Lummi Indian Nation

Governed by a five-member, independently elected board that includes two seats that are open to non-tribal fee land owners, the Lummi Tribal Sewer and Water District provides water, sanitary and sewer infrastructure, and service to 5,000 Indian and non-Indian residents living within the external boundaries of the Lummi Indian Reservation. The District adheres to strict health and environmental standards, sets and collects necessary fees to support operations and facilities improvements, and, through sound management, reduced dependence on river withdrawals by 91% in the last year – all factors that contribute to the District's credibility and effectiveness.

**Contact:**
2156 Lummi View Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226
Tel: 360-758-7167
Fax: 360-758-7195
www.lummi-nsn.org

**School Based Health Centers, Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Program, 2015**
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

Before the HP/DP Program, the Fort Peck Tribes’ youth struggled with unmet needs for mental health, dental and routine health services. By bringing the care into the schools, by building diverse and lasting partnerships, and by leveraging a unique funding structure, the School Based Health Centers provide quality mental, dental and health access for all students.

**Contact:**
PO Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255
Tel: 406-768-3383
www.fortpecktirbeshpdp.com

**Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE), 2014**
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
SCALE is a voluntary association of local governments and agencies in Scott County, MN, that works to foster collaboration and deliver constituent services more efficiently and effectively. In its first decade of existence, SCALE has greatly improved communication, trust, and cooperation among its members, including the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and has become the county-wide “Government Without Borders.”

**Contact:**
2330 Sioux Trail NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 952-496-6154
www.shakopeeDakota.org

**Siyeh Corporation, 2005**  
Blackfeet Nation

For years the Blackfeet Nation struggled to create sustainable tribal enterprises that could produce revenue for the nation and meet the needs of its citizens for jobs and services. Many of these efforts did not succeed because of conflicts within the tribal government. In 1999, the Nation tried a new strategy. It established a federally chartered, tribally owned corporation designed to manage businesses on behalf of the government and to protect those businesses from inappropriate political influence. Named after a great Blackfeet warrior known for his fearless leadership, the Siyeh Corporation today runs multiple businesses including a cable television company, a heritage center, an art gallery, and two casinos. The Corporation promotes economic growth and stability while preserving Blackfeet cultural and traditional values. Siyeh is changing the economic landscape of an impoverished reservation, increasing the Blackfeet Nation’s revenues and enhancing Blackfeet self-government.

**Contact:**
PO Box 1989  
416 West Central Ave  
Browning, MT 59417  
Tel: 406-338-5669  
Fax: 406-338-3797  
www.siyehdevelopment.com

**Small Business Development Program, 2000**  
Corporate Commission, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

The Small Business Development Program assists Band members in developing the private sector economy by providing low-interest loans up to $75,000 to businesses that are at least 60 percent owned and operated by Band members located on or near the Reservation. The Program offers both “micro” loans to serve as seed money for business development and “macro” loans for more extensive business start-up or expansion needs. Additionally, it offers assistance with business plan development, marketing, accounting, and management. Since its inception in 1996, the Program has provided loans and training to more than 30 businesses, including construction companies, coffee houses, a septic service, lawn care and snow removal businesses, a karate studio, a horse breeding operation, a hair salon, and an art gallery. Together, the Mille Lacs Corporate Commission and the Small Business Development Program help diversify the tribal economy by providing economic development opportunities that span beyond government jobs and the gaming industry.

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700 Grand Avenue  
Onamia, MN 56359  
Tel: 320-532-8800  
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Southwest Oregon Research Project (SWORP), 2002
Coquille Indian Tribe

Driven by the belief that possessing historical documents and archival collections is essential for cultural self-determination, the Coquille Indian Tribe partnered with the University of Oregon and the Smithsonian Institution to launch the Southwest Oregon Research Project (SWORP) in 1995. Through SWORP, over 110,000 pages of cultural, linguistic, and historical documents have been collected and placed in a central archive. In 1997 and again in 2001, SWORP held potlatches in which 44 tribes were given copies of the collection. Today, these documents help tribal scholars develop and present a culturally sensitive and historically accurate body of knowledge about northwest tribes.

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libweb.uoregon.edu/speccoll

Swinomish Climate Change Initiative, 2014
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

In recognition of increasing scientific evidence and consensus on climate change impacts globally and regionally, the Swinomish Indian Senate issued a proclamation in 2007 directing action to study the possible effects of climate change on the Swinomish Indian Reservation community, lands, and resources and determine appropriate adaption responses. Following this proclamation, with guidance from regional climate experts and supported in large part by a federal funding, the tribe initiated a comprehensive Climate Change Initiative in 2008 to assess projected impacts and develop an action plan outlining potential responses across a multitude of disciplines. This landmark initiative catalyzed numerous follow-up implementation efforts as part of a growing program to plan for and counter what is now recognized as one of the greatest and far-reaching challenges to face the tribe. In addition, the tribes experiences and practices in this have since become threaded into regional and national climate adaption efforts benefiting many other tribal and non-tribal entities.

Contact:
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
11430 Moorage Way
LaConner, WA  98257
Tel: 360-466-6154
Fax: 360-466-1615
www.swinomish-nsn.org

Swinomish Cooperative Land Use Program, 2000
Office of Planning and Community Development, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Based on a memorandum of agreement between the Tribe and Skagit County, the Swinomish Cooperative Land Use Program provides a framework for conducting permitting activities within the boundaries of the
“checkerboarded” reservation and offers a forum for resolving potential conflicts. The process, which began in the mid-1980s, was the first of its kind in the United States and illustrates a promising alterNative in land use conflict resolution by promoting between-government jurisdictional coordination. Since 1996, the tribal and county governments have jointly adopted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan and procedures to administer the plan, which together foster a mutually beneficial government-to-government relationship. Significantly, the model also has served to improve relationships between the Tribe and other contiguous local governments. To date, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community has instituted more than a dozen separate agreements with federal, state, county, and municipal authorities in the areas of land use, public safety, public health, environmental protection, and utility regulation.

Contact:
11430 Moorage Way
La Conner, WA  98257
Tel: 360-466-7280
Fax: 360-466-1615

Task Force on Violence Against Women, 2006
National Coalition of Native Nations and Organizations Affiliated Through the National Congress of American Indians

Recognizing and acting upon the belief that safety for Native women rests at the heart of sovereignty, leadership from Native nations joined with grassroots coalitions and organizations to create an ongoing national movement educating Congress on the need for enhancing the safety of Native women. The coordinated efforts led to the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act to include more financial resources and protection for Native women. Now, tribal governments are better situated to combat the scourge of domestic violence present in Indian Country.

Contact:
Chair of Task Force on Violence Against Women
PO Box 369
Pauma Valley, CA  92061
Tel: 760-855-1466
Fax: 760-742-3422
www.ncai.org

Tax Initiative Economic Development, 1999
Kayenta Township Commission, Navajo Nation

In 1997, Kayenta became the first township on the Navajo Nation to take advantage of new opportunities for local governmental authority by implementing a 2.5% retail tax that brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. This revenue has enabled the Township to build a solid waste transfer station, obtain leveraged financing for economic development projects, and support a local government office that oversees business and homesite leases and creates local laws and ordinances. As the only self-sufficient "township" located on an Indian reservation in the United States, the Kayenta Township demonstrates how local empowerment and governance can foster self-determined, self-sustaining economic development that addresses community-specific needs.

Contact:
PO Box 1490
Kayenta, AZ  86033
Tel: 928-697-8451
Fax: 928-697-8461
www.kayentatownship.net
Treaty Rights/National Forest Management Memorandum of Understanding, 2000
Member Tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), a tribally chartered intertribal agency, negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the US Forest Service that both recognizes and implements treaty-guaranteed hunting, fishing, and gathering rights under tribal regulations and establishes a consultation process for National Forest management decisions that affect treaty rights. Under the MOU’s government-to-government process, there is increased communication, consultation, and integration of the tribes into National Forest decision-making on issues such as sugar bush management and timber harvesting. The MOU establishes standards and processes by which the Forest Service and the Tribes will act consistently across the four National Forests located within areas ceded by the Chippewa in the Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842. The MOU provides a model for other tribes seeking to exercise tribal self-governance and to protect treaty resources through a negotiated agreement with a partnering agency from another jurisdiction.

Contact:
PO Box 9
72682 Maple Street
Odanah, WI  54861
Tel: 715-682-6619
Fax: 715-682-9294
www.glifwc.org

Tribal Court of the Grand Traverse Band, 1999
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Constitutionally separated from the political influences of government, the Tribal Court hears more than 500 cases per year, and utilizes “peacemaking” to mediate in cases in which dispute resolution is preferred to an adversarial approach. The Court adjudicates on such issues as child abuse, juvenile delinquency, guardianships, contract disputes, constitutional issues, personal and property injuries, and employment disputes. By turning to the Peacemaking system, the Tribe has been able to resolve often contentious legal issues in a manner which helps retain the social fabric that ties the community together.

Contact:
2605 N. West Bayshore Dr.
Peshawbestown, MI  49682
Tel: 231-534-7050
Fax: 231-534-7051
www.gtbindians.org

Tribal Land Title and Records Office, 2006
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

With the ultimate goal of seeing a time when Native people and nations once again own and manage the land within the boundaries of every reservation as well as those lands that are culturally important to them beyond reservations, the Tribal Land Title and Records Office keeps all records and verifies titles pertaining to the status of trust lands. Having the ability to produce reliable trust land documents and provide clear titles quickly, the Office increases housing options for citizens and enhances their opportunities to secure loans.

Contact:
Tribal Monitors Program, 2005
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is located on 2.3 million acres of land in the central regions of North and South Dakota. Land issues rose to the forefront of tribal concerns after events such as allotment, lands flooding after the Army Corps of Engineers built a series of dams adjacent to the Tribe, and years of drought that caused drastic changes to a major river. Allotment meant that many sacred sites were no longer on lands controlled by the Tribe. Dropping water levels in the river, reservoirs, and lakes exposed culturally significant sites long covered by water. Dispersed over a massive land base, these numerous cultural and archeological sites were subject to looting and abuse. In 2000, using its authority to manage, protect, and preserve tribal property, the Tribe’s Historic Preservation Office established a Tribal Monitors Program. Archeologically trained personnel, working with tribal elders, identify and monitor these significant sites. Additionally, they see that the sites, the artifacts within them, and any exposed human remains are dealt with in a culturally appropriate way. The Tribe is managing and protecting its lands while preserving the spiritual and cultural heritage and resources that the nation truly depends on for future generations.

Contact:
PO Box “D”
Fort Yates, ND 58538-0522
Tel: 701-854-2120
Fax: 701-854-2138
www.standingrock.org

Trust Resource Management, 2003
Office of Support Services, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

For more than three decades, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) have been building capable governing institutions and taking over management of resources and programs previously managed by outsiders. Recognizing that self-management both allows the tribal government to determine its own priorities and has positive bottom-line effects, CSKT is a leader in incorporating tribal values into natural resource management and in delivering first-rate services to its 7,000 citizens.

Contact:
PO Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
Tel: 406-675-2700
Fax: 406-675-2806
www.cskt.org
Tsigo bugeh Village, 2008
Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority

Restoring communal living through Pueblo-style housing, the Tsigo bugeh Village offers “traditional living with a modern touch” for Ohkay Owingeh citizens. Designed to honor a sense of community and place, Tsigo bugeh addresses Ohkay Owingeh’s urgent housing demands with 40 units for single and multigenerational families, all in a modern design that echoes millennia of traditional Pueblo living.

Contact:
PO Box 1059
Ohkay Owingeh, NM  87566
Tel: 505-852-0189
Fax: 505-852-9081
www.ohkayowingehhousingauthority.org

Umatilla Basin Salmon Recovery Project, 2002
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

The Umatilla Basin Salmon Recovery Project has successfully restored salmon to the Umatilla River, where they had been absent for nearly 70 years, while also protecting the local irrigated agriculture economy. Partnering with local irrigators and community leaders, the tribe undertook a comprehensive effort that included fish passage improvements, stream habitat enhancement, hatchery stations, research, and a federally funded project that allowed irrigators to access water from other sources. In addition to bringing a thriving salmon population back to the River – a cultural and economic imperative for the tribe – the Project has fostered cooperative relationships among stakeholders with divergent interests.

Contact:
PO Box 638
Pendleton, OR  97801
Tel: 541-966-2033
Fax: 541-966-2043
www.umatilla.nsn.us

Water Quality Standards, 1999
Environment Department, Pueblo of Sandia

Responding to the severe contamination of the Rio Grande River that threatens human health and ceremonial uses of the water, the Pueblo was awarded “treatment as state” status in 1990. Subsequently, the Pueblo developed and implemented US EPA approved water quality standards that give it control over local and regional water issues as well as management of water quality improvement efforts. In 1997, the Pueblo of Sandia received EPA's "Partnership in Environmental Excellence Award" for "outstanding success in developing an environmental management program to protect and manage tribal resources." Most importantly, the Pueblo is acting to ensure the program’s future success; by having the Pueblo’s grade school students tour the river and test its water quality as part of the school science projects. The Pueblo of Sandia is helping to create a new generation of water quality guardians.

Contact:
481 Sandia Loop
Bernalillo, NM  87004
Tel: 505-867-4533
Whirling Thunder Wellness Program, 2002
Winnebago Tribal Health Department, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

To prevent and control the devastating effects of diabetes and substance abuse, in 1995, the Winnebago Tribe created the Whirling Thunder Wellness Program, which raises community awareness about diabetes and substance abuse, administers primary and secondary prevention services, and encourages healthy lifestyles that are consistent with traditional practices. Among the Program’s innovations are the “Team Up” diabetes patient retreat, “Kidz Café” which provides healthy summertime meals and snacks to community children, and after school programs that provide safe, adult-supervised cultural and physical activities for up to 50 children during peak “risk” hours.

Contact:
PO Box 687
Winnebago, NE  68071
Tel: 402-878-2440
Fax: 402-878-2831

White Earth Suicide Intervention Team, 2000
White Earth Chippewa Tribe

The White Earth Suicide Intervention Team (WESIT) was created in 1990 in response to an extraordinarily high rate of suicide attempts and completions among tribal members living on the White Earth Reservation. With the Tribal Council’s official support, a group of volunteers came together following a series of grassroots community meetings and adopted the mission of “suicide intervention.” Their volunteer program is designed to provide support and care to clients and family members and to ensure that appropriate intervention and treatment occur in the event of suicidal ideation or a suicide attempt. In 1990, there was great despair among members of the White Earth Reservation that they might not be able to overcome this difficult problem; today, WESIT’s effectiveness is best demonstrated through a renewed level of community hope. WESIT has turned the tide of opinion at White Earth, showing that with compassion, coordinated resources, and proper training, something can be done.

White Mountain Apache Wildlife and Recreation Program, 2000
Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division, White Mountain Apache Tribe

The White Mountain Apache Wildlife and Recreation Program fulfills the dual role of performing all wildlife conservation and management and serving as a self-sustaining business enterprise based on the Tribe’s recreation/tourism industry. The program’s effective wildlife management techniques have allowed the Tribe to gain management control over its wildlife and recreation resources and to better manage them in accordance with Apache values. The conservation management and regulatory component of the Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division consists of the Fish and Wildlife Management Department and the Law Enforcement Department; the Division’s enterprise component consists of two profit centers—the Outdoor Recreation Department and the tribe’s Trophy Hunting Program. The program has successfully linked effective conservation with enterprise profitability in a mutually beneficial relationship.

Contact:
PO Box 220
Whiteriver, AZ  85941
Wildlife and Fisheries Management Program, 1999
Jicarilla Game and Fish Department, Jicarilla Apache Tribe

Recognized by state game and fish agencies as being one of the best of its kind, JGFD’s program includes a game and fish code and a wildlife management fund for habitat enhancement projects. The program restored the reservation’s mule deer population and trophy trout, and established a commercial elk-hunting ranch that produces over $1 million for the tribe annually. The Jicarilla Tribe's Wildlife and Fisheries Management Program is regarded by both Indians and non-Indians as a model program. In 1987, the Southwest Section of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society honored the Jicarilla Game and Fish Department with its "Outstanding Program of the Decade" award.

Contact:
PO Box 313
Dulce, NM  87528
Tel: 575-759-3255
Fax: 575-759-3457
www.jicarillahunt.com

Winnebago Community Development Fund, 2006
Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Establishing a framework for community development based on the goals of the government and its citizens, the Winnebago CDC Fund builds toward long-term development by matching funds for grants, building community projects, supplementing community infrastructure, increasing educational opportunities, and providing financial leverage to community projects. By having a dedicated fund, tribal governments can better address essential government responsibilities with the security of knowing the unique needs of many individual groups are being met. Additionally, local and regional partnerships are fostered.

Contact:
PO Box 264
106 South Tallman St.
Walthill, NE  68607
Tel: 402-846-5353
Fax: 402-846-5379
www.hochunkcdc.org

Ya Ne Dah Ah School, 2002
Education Department, Chickaloon Village Tribal Council

Dedicated to giving community youth the skills necessary for functioning in a modern world while retaining and facilitating traditional knowledge and practices, the Ya Ne Dah Ah is Alaska’s only tribally owned and operated full-time primary school and day care facility. Located in a one-room schoolhouse that receives no federal or state funding, the School’s 20 students – whose CAT scores are higher than their national counterparts – learn Ahtna Athabascan history, language, music, art from elders, and science and math from tribal foresters, environmentalists, and computer technicians. The School’s board also encourages intensive parental involvement and aggressively monitors student progress.

Contact:
Yakama Nation Land Enterprise, 2002
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

In an effort to consolidate, regulate, and control Indian land holdings, the financially self-sustaining Yakama Nation Land Enterprise has successfully acquired more than 90% of all the fee lands within the Nation’s closed area – lands which were previously highly “checker-boarded.” The Enterprise’s land purchase program has allowed the Nation to expand industrial, business, and agricultural activities; tracts of land are used for housing, day care centers, ranger stations, longhouses, and for use by tribal education, foods, resource management, and cultural programs.

Contact:
PO Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948
Tel: 509-865-2151
Fax: 509-865-2198
www.ynle.com

Yukaana Development Corporation, 2000
Louden Tribal Council

The Louden Tribal Council created the Yukaana Development Corporation in 1998 to address the concerns of environmental degradation and environmental justice through training and employment. Under a contract with the US Air Force, the tribally owned Corporation cleans contamination caused by a local military base and collaborates with other agencies to train Natives in environmental remediation. Given Alaska Natives’ unique political context, assertions of tribal self-governance must be creative and have broad-ranging benefits. Within this framework, the Louden Tribal Council has been extremely resourceful in marshalling the necessary resources to fulfill its twin objectives of starting a for-profit corporation and undertaking environmental remediation on its traditional hunting and fishing lands. The Yukaana Development Corporation is both improving the environment and creating new job opportunities in this rural area of the Alaska interior.

Contact:
PO Box 215
Galena, AK 99741
Tel: 907-656-2075
Fax: 907-656-2076

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, 2005
Koyukon and Gwich’in Athabascan, Yupik, and Tlingit

The Yukon River runs for 2,300 miles across the northwestern corner of North America. Many generations of Native people have drawn on its waters for food, drink, and other necessities. Recent development and changes in land use have affected the quality of Yukon River water. In 1997, chiefs and elders of peoples who live along the river joined together in an effort to “once again drink clean water directly from the Yukon River as our ancestors did for thousands of years before us.” Today, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council represents 60 Native nations in Alaska and Canada, monitors thousands of miles of river and millions of acres of land, works to increase water quality and environmental integrity within a massive ecosystem, and offers a remarkable model of partnership among diverse peoples determined to preserve their lands and their ways of life.
Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways, 2008
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways is the caretaker of cultural heritage for the Saginaw Chippewa. The Center educates the Tribe's citizens and the general public through its permanent and rotating exhibits, research center, repatriation efforts, art market, workshops, and language programs. By sharing its story in many ways, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan is reclaiming its past and celebrating its vibrant present as Anishinabe people.

Contact:
323 2nd Street, Unit A
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4469
Tel: 907-451-2530
Fax: 907-451-2534
www.yritwc.org

Zuni Eagle Sanctuary, 2002
Zuni Fish and Wildlife Department, Pueblo of Zuni

Responding to ceremonial needs for eagle feathers, in 1999, the Pueblo opened the first-ever Native American owned and operated eagle sanctuary. The award-winning facility provides a source of molted eagle feathers for Zuni while at the same time reviving the ancient practice of eagle husbandry. Today, the Sanctuary is home to 16 eagles – all of which are non-releasable, typically because of a permanent debilitating injury – which enables the Pueblo to distribute tens of thousands of feathers using tribal protocol. The Sanctuary also administers a community education program, a raptor care training program, and has strengthened Zuni’s ties with dozens of outside agencies.

Contact:
PO Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327
Tel: 505-782-5851
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